

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0701

Dear Colleague:

Given your leadership role in your state legislature, I am writing today to invite you to serve on the Executive Committee of a Former State Legislative Leaders Working Group that I am forming.

Several months ago I met with Stephen Lakis, President of the State Legislative Leaders Foundation (<http://www.sllf.org>), a national nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that represents all the state legislative presiding officers in the nation. While I was serving as the Senate President in Connecticut, I also had the honor of serving on the State Legislative Leaders Foundation board of directors. It is an outstanding legislative organization with top-notch educational programs and a well-deserved reputation for doing everything first class.

Steve approached me with the idea of organizing a series of major conferences that would bring together Members of Congress with his members—state legislative leaders. The purpose of these conferences would be threefold: to open new lines of direct communication between Congress and key state political leaders; to discuss public policy issues uppermost in the minds of the states; and to brief the states on how Congress perceives the role of the states in such critical issues as home security, education, and various entitlement programs.

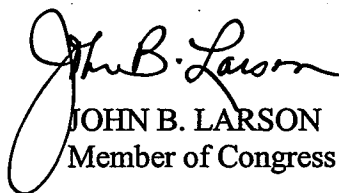
I view this as an extraordinary opportunity for us to strengthen relations with these leaders. As I said, Steve and his association do exceptional work and meetings between House members and his organization will surely be valuable both professionally and personally.

In order to accomplish these goals, I believe that it would be best for Members of the House who were previously leaders in their state legislatures to form a "Former State Legislative Leaders Working Group," which would be registered as a Congressional Membership Organization (CMO). I am hopeful that you will join this Working Group and agree to serve with me on its Executive Committee. Once the Executive Committee has been formed, I plan to conduct an organization meeting with Mr. Lakis to help us set up the Working Group and plan our events for the Second Session of the 107th Congress and beyond.

I will plan to call you in the next few days to ascertain your interest and discuss possible dates for this meeting.

Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,


JOHN B. LARSON
Member of Congress